

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
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R 081147Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3760

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 16802

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, FR
SUBJECT: GISCARD SPEECH TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS
JUNE 7, 1977

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENT
GISCARD D'ESTAING'S SPEECH TO THE FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC
CORPS ANNUAL DINNER AT THE ELYSEE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: JUNE 20, 1974 WAS THE FIRST
TIME THAT I HAD THE HONOR OF RECEIVING THE DIPLOMATIC
CORPS ACCREDITED TO PARIS IN THIS PALACE AS PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC. THREE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE
THEN --- THREE YEARS DURING WHICH YOU HAVE NOT
CEASED TO BE ATTENTIVE AND COMPETENT WITNESSES TO
THE INTERNATIONAL ACTION THAT I HAVE CONDUCTED IN
THE NAME OF FRANCE.

3. UNDOUBTEDLY, YOU HAVE PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION
TO ONE OR MORE ASPECTS OF THAT ACTION DEPENDING ON
THE SPECIFIC PREOCCUPATIONS OF THE STATES WHICH
YOU REPRESENT. ALSO WITHOUT DOUBT, YOU HAVE ANALYZED
FOR YOUR GOVERNMENTS DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY UNFOLDED
ON A DAILY BASIS IN THE NEWS.

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4. BUT ALL OF YOU, AT ONE MOMENT OR ANOTHER, FELT
THE NEED TO THINK ABOUT THE FUNDAMENTAL INSPIRATION
BEHIND THIS ACTION, AND ABOUT WHAT GIVES IT ITS
OWN PERSONALITY AND MAKES IT UNIFIED. IT IS TO THIS
QUESTION THAT I AM GOING TO RESPOND BY RECALLING
WHAT I SAID TO YOU DURING OUR FIRST CONTACT.

5. LIKE ALL COUNTRIES, FRANCE HAS INTERESTS WHICH EACH SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, AND WHICH THEY ARE REQUIRED TO ENHANCE, AND WHEN NECESSARY, DEFEND. WE DO THAT. BUT FOR ME, THAT IS NOT THE ONLY DIMENSION OF OUR DIPLOMATIC ACTION, I AM CONVINCED THAT A FOREIGN POLICY MERITS THIS NAME ONLY IF IT REFLECTS THE PROFOUND ASPIRATIONS OF A PEOPLE, AND ILLUSTRATES THE VALUES TO WHICH THAT PEOPLE IS ATTACHED.

6. THIS CONVICTION IS RESPONSIVE TO THE TRADITIONS OF FRANCE AS FAR BACK AS WE CAN TRACE ITS HISTORY, TO THE INSTINCTS OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE RADIATION OF IDEAS THAN THE WEIGHT OF POWER, AND TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE WORLD WHICH WOULD NO LONGER RECOGNIZE A FRANCE THAT CEASED TO BE BOTH THE INCARNATION AND THE ACTIVE EXPRESSION OF AN IDEAL.

7. THAT IS WHY, IN THE VERY FIRST WORDS THAT I ADDRESSED TO YOU IMMEDIATELY AFTER MY ELECTION, I INDICATED TO YOU MY INTENTION TO CONFIRM AND ACCENTUATE THE LIBERAL VOCATION OF FRANCE. LIBERTY IS AT THE HEART OF OUR HISTORY AND OUR INSTITUTIONS; ITS INSPIRATION ANIMATED OUR GREAT REVOLUTION; ITS SYMBOL IS CELEBRATED EVERY YEAR ON OUR NATIONAL DAY. MY HIGHEST MISSION, AND MY PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, ARE TO MAKE SURE THAT FRENCH POLICY DISPLAYS

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VISIBLY THE MARK OF LIBERTY INTERNALLY AS WELL AS EXTERNALLY. I WILL DO IT EACH TIME THAT CIRCUMSTANCES CALL FOR A LIBERAL GESTURE FROM FRANCE.

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8. THAT IS WHY I ALSO WELCOME ANY INITIATIVE TAKEN
TO EMPHASIZE THE MORAL AND HUMAN ASPECTS OF INTER-
NATIONAL RELATIONS.

9. ABROAD AS WELL AS AT HOME, THERE IS NO LIBERTY
WITHOUT PLURALISM. THE NUMBER AND DIVERSITY OF
STATES WHICH YOU REPRESENT REFLECT THE PROGRESS
THAT LIBERTY HAS ACHIEVED IN THE WORLD.

10. THE ENJOYMENT OF LIBERTY IN THE WORLD, SO THAT
IT FULFILLS ITS TOTAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DIMENSIONS, WILL COME FROM THE DIALECTIC OF
INDEPENDENCE AND INTERDEPENDENCE.

11. THE RESPECT FOR PLURALISM, IN INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS, MEANS THE REFUSAL OF ALL TEMPTATIONS TOWARD
HEGEMONY, AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF
PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION. FRANCE EXERCISES
THIS RIGHT FOR HERSELF BY DEMONSTRATING TOWARD ALL,
INCLUDING EVEN HER FRIENDS, ALLIES, AND PARTNERS, HER
RESOLVE TO MAINTAIN FREEDOM OF JUDGEMENT AND TO
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REMAIN MASTER OF HER DECISIONS.

12. FRANCE INTENDS ALSO TO EXTEND THESE CONSIDER-
ATIONS TO OTHERS, AND YOU WILL ALWAYS SEE HER
CONCERNED NOT ONLY TO RESPECT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF
OTHER STATES, LARGE OR SMALL, BUT TO ENCOURAGE
THEIR WILL TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT. FRANCE JUST SET
AN EXAMPLE BY LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE THE LAST
TERRITORY FOR WHICH SHE HAD RESPONSIBILITY ON THE
AFRICAN CONTINENT. THIS WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT
JUNE 27. IT IS IN THE SAME SPIRIT THAT FRANCE WILL
MAKE A VIGOROUS CONTRIBUTION TO CURRENT EFFORTS IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA TO ENCOURAGE THE INDISPENSABLE

TRANSFORMATIONS WHICH THE DIGNITY OF MAN REQUIRE.

13. THE ASSISTANCE THAT FRANCE PROVIDES, AT THEIR DEMAND, TO A NUMBER OF AFRICAN STATES TO HELP THEM ASSURE THEIR SECURITY, AND TO ACCELERATE THEIR DEVELOPMENT, HAS NO OTHER OBJECTIVE THAN TO STRENGTHEN THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

14. IT IS IN THE SAME SPIRIT THAT FRANCE WILL SUPPORT VIETNAM'S APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

15. IT IS NOT ENOUGH, HOWEVER, THAT PLURALISM BE RESPECTED; IT IS ALSO NECESSARY THAT ITS RAMIFICATIONS BE COMPLETELY ACCEPTED. LIBERTY BREATHES POORLY IN A WORLD BRISTLING WITH IDEOLOGICAL OR MILITARY BARRIERS. LIBERTY NEEDS A LARGE PUBLIC AREA WHICH IS THE PLACE FOR MEETINGS, FOR EXCHANGES, AND FOR DIALOGUE. TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPENING OF SUCH AN AREA BY DISMANTELING THE PRISON WALLS OF INTOLERANCE, OF FEAR AND SUSPICION, IS TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF LIBERTY, AND IS WHAT FRANCE IS DEVOTING ITSELF TO.

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16. OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT LACKING IN EUROPE WHERE IT IS A QUESTION OF PROMOTING DETENTE TO WHICH FRANCE REMAINS FUNDAMENTALLY ATTACHED. BECAUSE DETENTE IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO A RETURN TO THE ARMS RACE, AND ALSO BECAUSE DETENTE EXPRESSES IN DEPTH, DESPITE DIFFERENCES AND ANTAGONISMS, THE UNITY OF OUR CONTINENT.

17. OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT LACKING IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHERE IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO ALLOW AN INTERRUPTION, OR EVEN WORSE A REVERSAL, OF THE MOVEMENT TOWARD A JUST AND GLOBAL PEACE FOR WHICH WE HAVE OUTLINED THE NECESSARY PRINCIPLES.

18. OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT LACKING IN THE VAST PROBLEM OF DISARMAMENT TO WHICH FRANCE HOPES TO CONTRIBUTE HER THINKING WITHIN THE LIMITS OF RESPECT FOR NATIONAL RIGHTS TO SECURITY.

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19. FINALLY, THESE OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT LACKING IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD WHO SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ASSERT THEMSELVES IN THEIR OWN IDENTITIES AND IN THEIR OWN CULTURES, RATHER THAN ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE RECRUITED, THAT IS TO SAY ALIGNED, IN THE CONFLICTS OF THE GREAT POWERS. A PLURALIST WORLD CANNOT ACCEPT HEGEMONIES.

20. FINALLY, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE WORLD'S PLURALISM TO BE MORE EQUITABLY ORGANIZED. THE LIBERTY THAT WE HOPE FOR IS NOT THAT OF THE JUNGLE WHERE THE POWERFUL CAN EXPLOIT THE WEAK WITH IMPUNITY. IT CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM ORDER AND JUSTICE.

21. BUT THERE IS ALSO INTERDEPENDENCE. WITH OUR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WE ARE COMMITTED TO SET AN EXAMPLE OF TIGHTLY ORGANIZED COOPERATION WHILE RESPECTING OUR GLORIOUS NATIONAL IDENTITIES. WE ARE WORKING SO THAT THIS ORGANIZATION RESULTS IN A CONFEDERATION OF EUROPE WHICH IS

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CAPABLE OF CONSTITUTING AN INDEPENDENT FACTOR IN THE WORLD OF PEACE AND EQUILIBRIUM.

22. WHO DOES NOT PERCEIVE, IN THE REVEALING
LIGHT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, THAT THE GREAT PRO-
BLEMS OF HUMANITY ARE POSED MORE AND MORE EACH DAY
ON A WORLDWIDE SCALE. WHETHER IT INVOLVES DEVELOP-
MENT, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, INFLATION, OR ENERGY,
THEIR SOLUTION REQUIRES THE PARTICIPATION AND
CONTRIBUTION OF ALL.

23. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE CURRENT EVOLUTION,
WHICH IS REDUCING ALL DISTANCES IN THE WORLD, WILL
BRING EVERYONE TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY
RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION.

23. THIS IS, MESSIEURS THE AMBASSADORS, FRANCE'S
FOREIGN POLICY. IN TRANSMITTING THESE PRINCIPLES
TO YOUR GOVERNMENTS, I REQUEST THAT YOU EXPRESS
TO YOUR SOVEREIGNS AND CHIEFS OF STATE WHO
ACCREDITED YOU TO ME, MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION, AS
WELL AS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE CARE WITH WHICH
THEY SELECTED YOU TO REPRESENT THEM IN FRANCE.
GAMMON

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